RiFLe



FALL 23

FREE 4 ALL!!!



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WREL's MISSION

As an FCC-licensed, non-commercial, educational radio station at 88.1 FM in Lexington since March 7, 1988, and a student organization of the University of Kentucky, is to:

Provide its members professional training and guidance in radio operations management, program development, and quality broadcast performance

Offer its listeners a source of music, news, and other programming not regularly found through other media outlets in Central Kentucky, and

Supports arts and music in the Lexington area.



GET INVOLVED WITH WRFL

WRFL is open to both UK students and community members.



We have an open training program for DJs every semester!



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A letter from WRFL's General Manager



Hello again RFLiens,

It's once again that time of year for the new RiFLe, done by our fantastic new Design Director Greer. I wanted to start out this new RiFLe by giving a huge shout out to all of the listeners and readers of WRFL and the RiFLe over the years. You guys are the thing that keeps me, all of us on the BoD, and the station going, and we wouldn't be here today without you.

Now if you're not one of our regular listeners or readers, I'd like to welcome you to the weird and wacky world that is WRFL and the RiFLe. We've got a lot in store for you in this wonderful little zine, that's got lots of content from local artists and writers, so I hope you guys enjoy it. And, if you love the RiFLe, go ahead and tune into WRFL, I guarantee you we've got something you like. One final thing I'm gonna ask y'all to do if you like WRFL, start coming to our events and train to be a DJ! We've got lots of cool events you can come to like our Film Clubs, and you can even train to be a DJ next semester, so stay tuned for all of that.

Anyway, enough about my spiel. We've got lots of great stuff in here for you, like some awesome games by our Library Director Jaclyn, some awesome local art and photography, and even more, so I hope you guys enjoy Greer's first RiFLe.

Enjoy,
Brandon Bost
WRFL General Manager

A letter from WRFL's Design Director

Greetings, RFLiens!

Let me begin by saying, what an insane honor it is to be chosen as WRFL's new Design Director! I remember, even before I was a humble DJ, poring over RiFLes of years past and grabbing new copies the second they were available. To be able to work with the current Promotions Director and previous Design Director, the super talented Lucas Lima, has been incredible. He's helped me to learn the ins and outs of this position, and I couldn't be more grateful!

Being a part of the team at WRFL has been a dream come true. As a small town Kentucky girl who loved alternative art and music, I never got to experience a local scene until I arrived in Lexington. I couldn't ask for a more supportive Board of Directors, General Staff, and all the RFLiens out there.

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue of the RiFLe in one way or another- all the art, writing, and everything in between is what makes the RiFLe...well, the RiFLe. I hope I can live up to the excellence of all of our past issues, and that you, the readers, enjoy this one, made by little 'ol me! I hope this issue reflects Lexington's awesome local art, music, and culture that we love so much.

Lots of love,
Greer Givens
WRFL Design Director



Meet the Board of Directors





Name: Brandon Bost
Position: General Manager
Hometown: Elizabethtown, KY
Favorite Fall Album: Birdie by Slaughter Beach Dog





Name: Luke Stone
Position: Operations Director
Hometown: Lexington, KY
Favorite Fall Album: Pink Moon by Nick Drake

Name: Annie O'Brien
Position: Programming Director
Hometown: Newport, KY
Favorite Fall Album: S/T by Your Arms Are My Cocoon







Name: Lucas Lima
Position: Promotions Director
Hometown: Avaré, Brazil
Favorite Fall Album: 10,000 Gecs by 100 gecs

Name: Valerie Wright
Position: Community Engagement Director
Hometown: Shelbyville, KY
Favorite Fall Album: Everybody Else is Doing It, So Why Can't We? by The Cranberries





Name: Greer Givens
Position: Design Director
Hometown: Hopkinsville, KY
Favorite Fall Album: Wamypric Countess by Bloody Keep

Name: Ethan Angelos
Position: Events Director
Hometown: Schaumburg, IL
Favorite Fall Album: A Safety Meeting by Manwolves



Name: Jaclyn Okorley
Position: Library Director
Hometown: Lexington, KY
Favorite Fall Album: Souvlaki by Slowdive





Name: Aidan Greenwell
Position: Local Music Director
Hometown: Newport, KY
Favorite Fall Album: It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown by Vince Guaraldi

Name: Andrew Mortimer
Position: Membership Director
Hometown: Saylersville, KY
Favorite Fall Album: Visions of Bodies Being Burned by clipping.





Name: Rebekah New
Position: Music Director
Hometown: Beckley, WV
Favorite Fall Album: Everybody Else is Doing It, So Why Can't We? by The Cranberries





Name: Kati Hall
Position: News Director
Hometown: LaGrange, KY
Favorite Fall Album: Any Fleetwood Mac before the 90s





Name: Sam Wallace-Smith
Position: Production Director I
Hometown: Lexington, KY
Favorite Fall Album: War Elephant by Deer Tick



Name: Abigail Brannon
Position: Production Director II
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Favorite Fall Album: Bodies Bodies Bodies Soundtrack by Disasterpeace



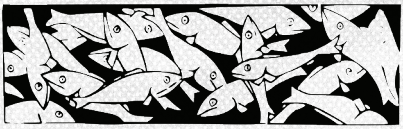


Name: Mary Clark
Position: Station Advisor
Hometown: Lexington, KY
Favorite Fall Album: Abyss by Chelsea Wolf



Fall 2023 Programming Schedule

	sunday	monday	tuesday
midnight	The Onion Router	soundwaves	Matt's Metal Mortuary
2 am	Broadway Buzz	guestroom	
5 am	The Shuffle Arc	Lukie Goes Green	Daniel Tyler Show 2
7 am	Matt's Headroom	A Voyage Through Sound	Sunflowers & Thunderstorms
9 am	Neverland Ballroom	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!
10 am		Semilla Segrada Radio	The Gray Area
noon	Down the Hatch	Working Title	Easy Tiger
2 pm	Union Break	Fresh Finds	Radio Free Eskippakithiki
4 pm	The World Beat	Asleep at the Wheel	The Rhythm Rug
6 pm	Generations of Jazz	GRIDLOCK	DJs & Dragons
8 pm	Next Level Radio	The Pacobilly Hour	Mars Voyager
10 pm	The Lab	Old School Hip-Hop	BTU



wrfl.fm/schedule

wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
scram!	The Fool	Turtle in a Hat	Vampire Hours
			loose change
Monza Town Coupe	silly rabbit		Into the Void
The B-Sides	International Pop Overthrow	Hello!!	Easily Suggestible
Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Unhinged Reality Show
Dave's Deep Dives	Trivial Thursdays	WRFL Alumni Show	
The Humpday Bump	For Your Listening Pleasure	Love Love Love	Blue Yodel #9
Your Father's Music Program	WRFL Film Club: The Show	Morning Paws	Something Completely Different
Campus Voices	Russian Radio	Where My Soul Wanders / Cim Jramer	All Things Heavy!
The Last Resort	The Matterhorn Mix	Phantom Power Double Hour	El Tren Latino
WRFL Live	kitty cafe / houseplants!	Giddy Up	WRFL Psychedelicatessen
Frannie Pack	The Musical Box	Signal Boost	Serious Moonlite



Rock, Blues, Jazz, & Americana from the 1960s to NOW

Genre & theme shows, alternate takes, rarities, and plenty of live recordings, all from the last 60+ years of music.

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PSYCHEDELICATESSEN
SATURDAY NIGHTS
8 – 10
88.1 fm / wrfl.fm

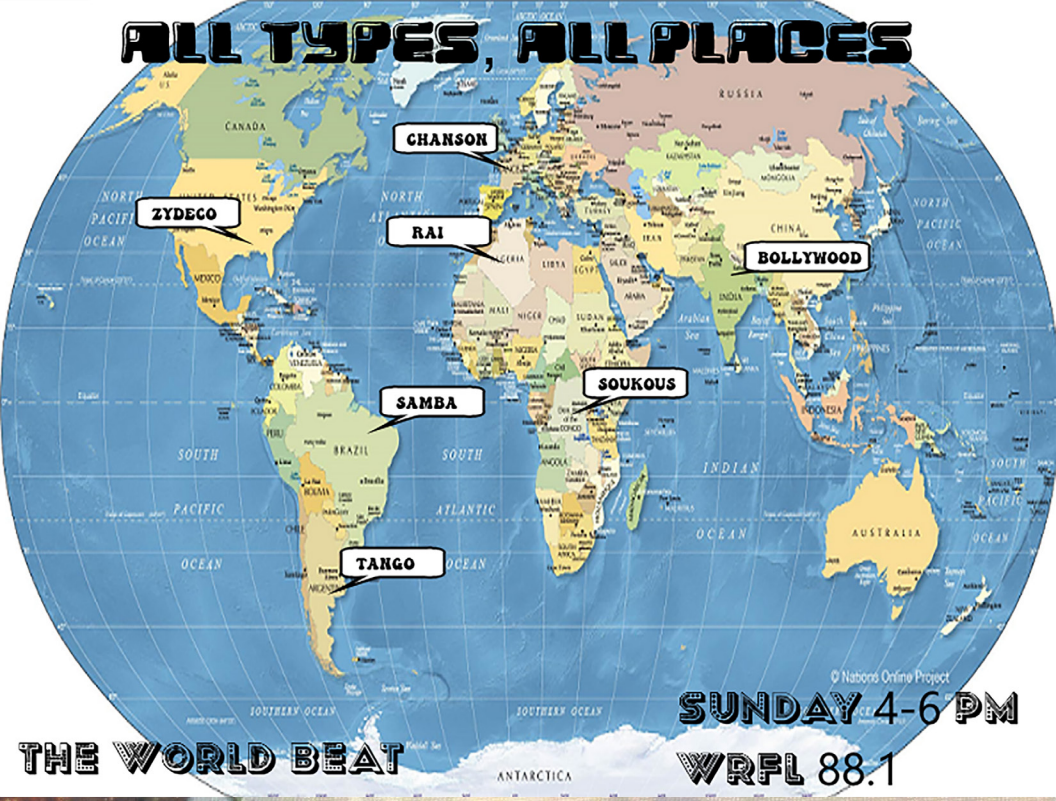


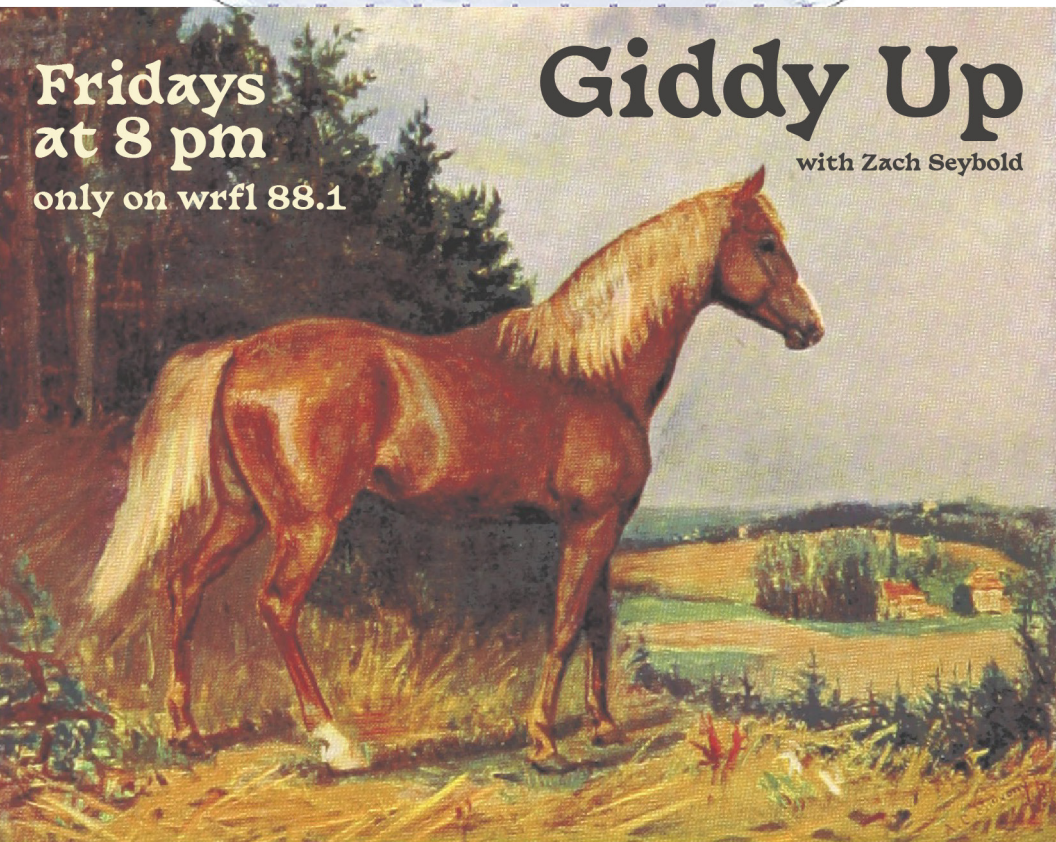
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UNHINGED REALITY SHOW

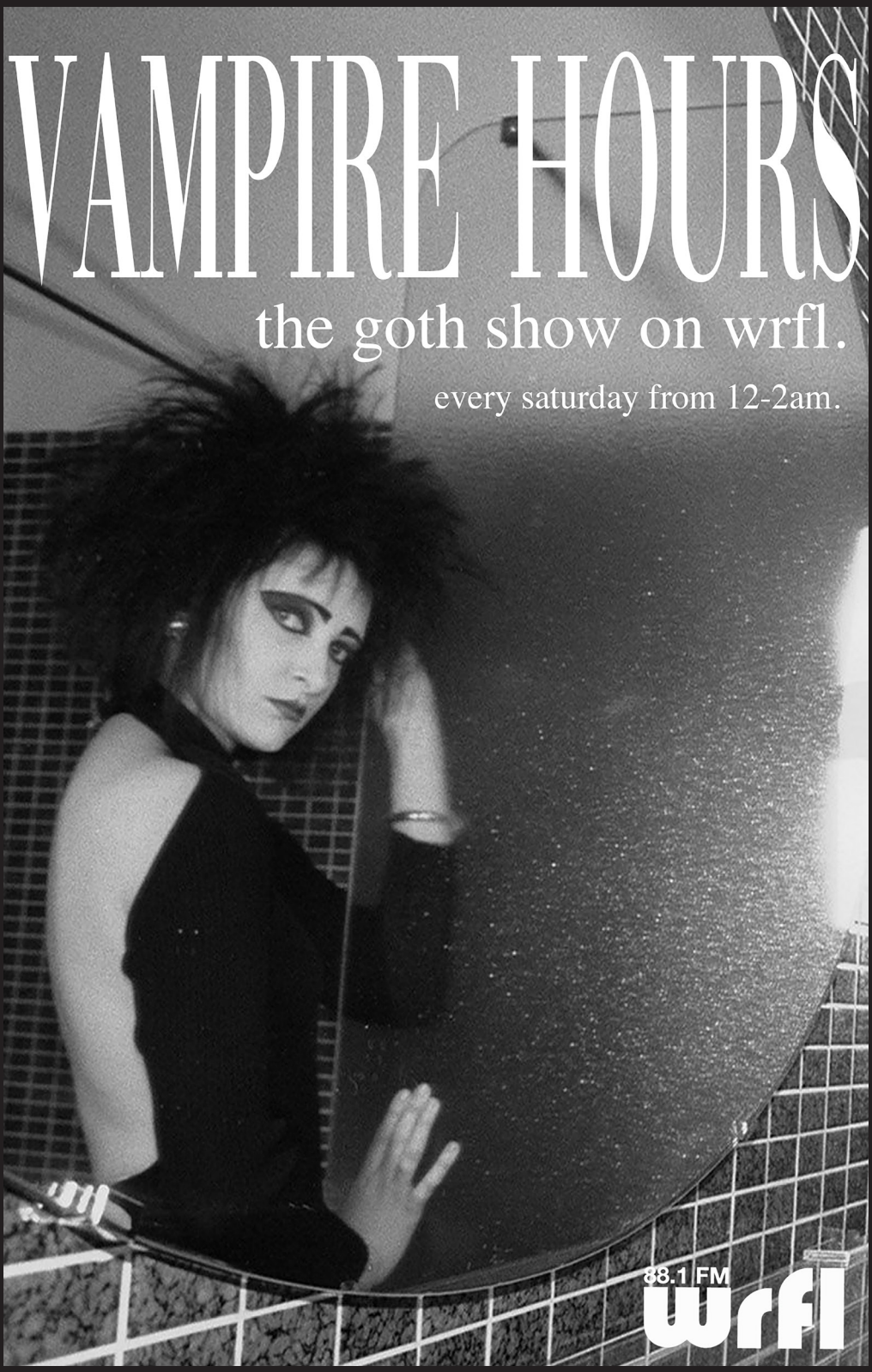
SATURDAY
NINE AM
TO NOON

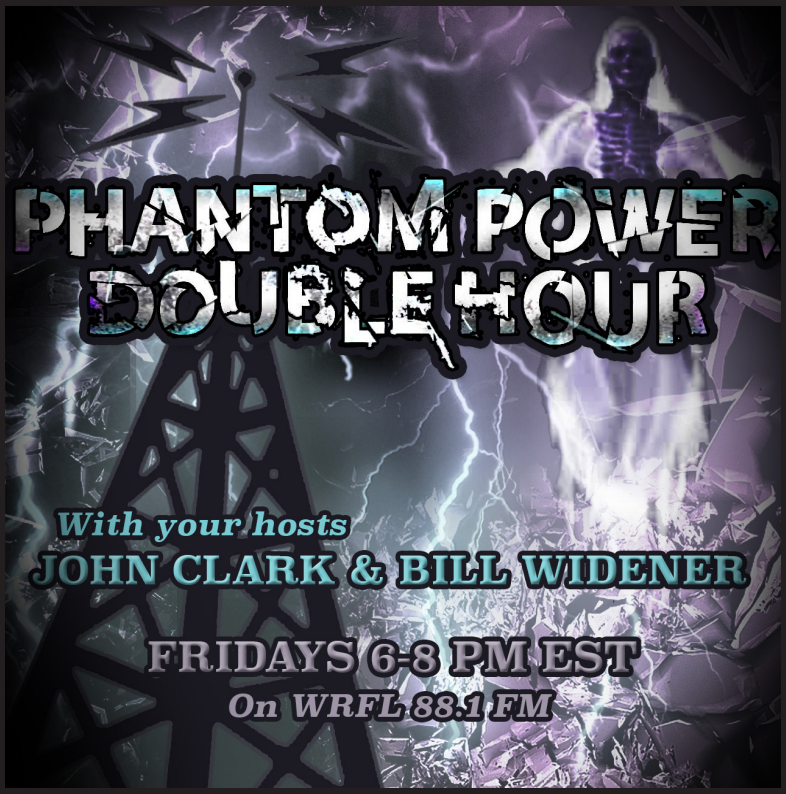

MONDAY
12 PM
WORKING TITLE
ONLY ON
WRFL


ALL TYPES, ALL PLACES
CHANSON
ZYDECO
RAI
BOLLYWOOD
SAMBA
SOUKOUS
TANGO
© Nations Online Project
SUNDAY 4-6 PM
THE WORLD BEAT
WRFL 88.1


Fridays
at 8 pm
only on wrfl 88.1
Giddy Up
with Zach Seybold


HORSE &
BARREL TOURS
& THE HUB
797-3605
HORSE
&
BARREL
TOURS
WRFL.FM
SERIOUS
MOONLITE
A POP MUSIC MIXTAPE


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the goth show on wrfl.
every saturday from 12-2am.
88.1 FM
wrfl


PHANTOM POWER
DOUBLE HOUR
With your hosts
JOHN CLARK & BILL WIDENER
FRIDAYS 6-8 PM EST
On WRFL 88.1 FM


HOUSEPLANTS/KITTY CAFÉ
Alternating Thursday 8-10pm!!

WRFL FILM CLUB: THE SHOW

with Sydney and Robby



MOVIE TALK! MOVIE TALK! MOVIE TALK!



Sydney



You
(dear listener)



Robby

THURSDAYS 2-4 PM

HELLO!!

FRIDAYS • 7 - 9 AM • 88.1 FM



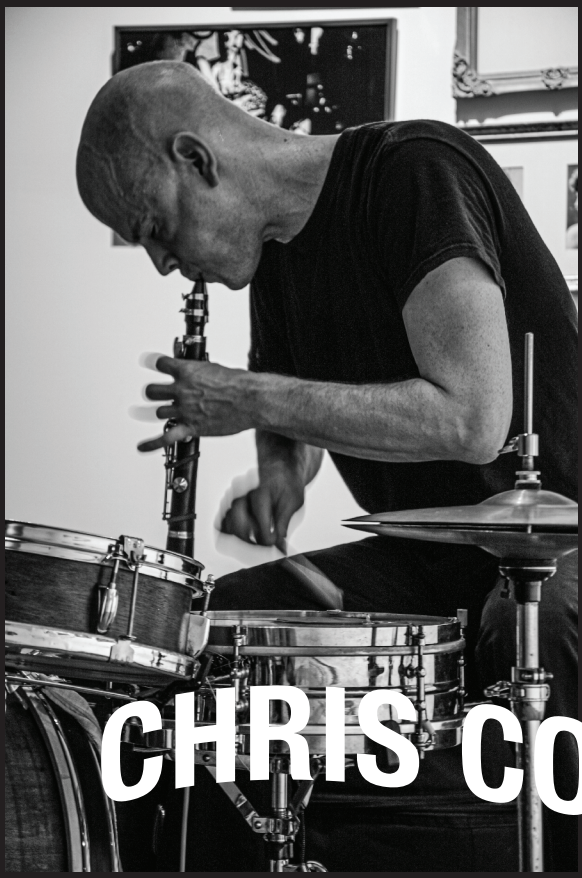
A sensible, stylish, and multi-purpose over-the-air type of musical program.

LOOSE CHANGE



THE WEIRDEST IN METAL

SATURDAYS AT TWO AM



OUTSIDE THE SPOTLIGHT: JAZZ AND IMPROVISED MUSIC SERIES

CHRIS CORSANO

at Institute 193







photographed by Brian Connors Manke
@bcmanke

An interview with TOBACCO

Written by Kati Hall
Design by Lucas Lima
Photos by Kylie Schmidt Photography

//Foreword:

This is the first interview with TOBACCO in 8 years, and this could have never been accomplished without the help of Jared, organizer of Expansion, and beloved WRFL DJ.
Note that both Lucas and I, who got to hold the interview, are typically short on luck. Well, I don't know about Lucas, but I know I am. Knowing this, I fully was not expecting for us to actually land this interview, so as my luck continues to be down, the one interview I wasn't prepared for is the one that happened.
Our nerves strung, we got to talk to and learn more about TOBACCO, with his manager keeping eyes over us as he watched down from a forklift that of course had to be there. What's the first interview in 8 years with an elusive artist without a forklift?
Anyways, I've talked long enough. Thank you Jared, thank you Lucas, thank you TOBACCO, and thank you WRFL.

TOBACCO started out in the band Black Moth Super Rainbow, a Psychedelic/ Rock/ Indie band from Pittsburgh. He left the group when he wanted to start something new, to be with those who lined up better with his mindset.

"I was looking for a way to do something different from that and also get away from some of the personalities at the time in the band (Black Moth Super Rainbow). It was kinda stressful in the beginning and being with those people all the time... I needed to do something else to not hate music because I think if you're with people who really stress you out, it can really take a toll on what you're doing..."

TOBACCO has changed, of course, as musicians do, as people do. His music becomes more of seeing what he can do, and what obstacles he can now tackle.

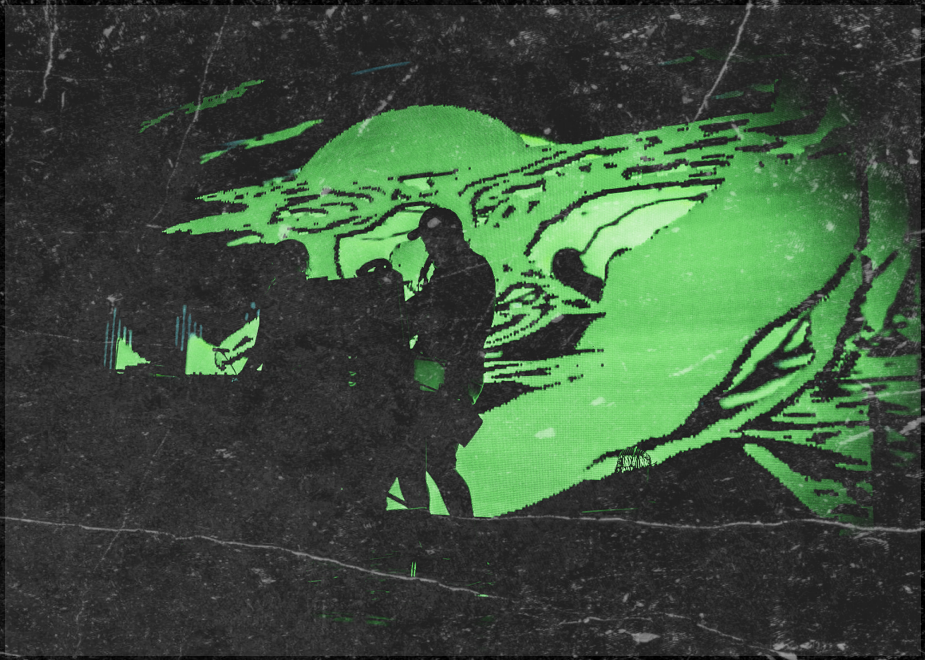
"It's a lot more challenging, we're gonna play stuff tonight that people just don't like, but that's the stuff that we like... That's not even really by design, I've always tried to do stuff that was new and challenging... I think I got really lucky ten years ago when there was this accidental intersection of me making something I want to make anyways and people actually liking it, like it wasn't by design. And it just stuck and so now I'm so far beyond that that I'm at the point where I'm making stuff that people really don't like... There's just stuff where, it's just not inviting, it's- I didn't know what people liked about me in the beginning until I started doing stuff that people don't like."

"People do change, and you can't make the same music over and over again. It's like that- I've done that. I've achieved that and now there are these new things that I wanna achieve and there's this one song in particular (Bitchass Moon)... I'm so proud of it, it's like this

thing I've been dreaming up for a couple of years and I had no idea how to make it happen and then once I made it made it happen, everyone was like 'he has to be trolling us.' Like 'there's no way he thinks this is good' and it's like, yeah, this is the coolest thing I've done."

"It's (Bitchass Moon) on the last album I put out and I kinda made it so it's like it feels- I wanted it to feel like a roller coaster or somethin... I think it's silly to say something sounds like getting high. I don't like weed, I get really bad feelings from it. I get the roller coaster feeling like my heart rate, it comes up, and it starts going really fast and then I come down and it's almost like I'm asleep. I hate this feeling. I wanted to make a song that kinda felt like that. And that's what that is."

With Aphex Twin being inspiration to TOBACCO, the world of what he creates next is infinite and exciting. Fans know that they will always hear TOBACCO, whether it's what they want or not, he will bring himself fully into his music, and create things that may not be in our imagination.







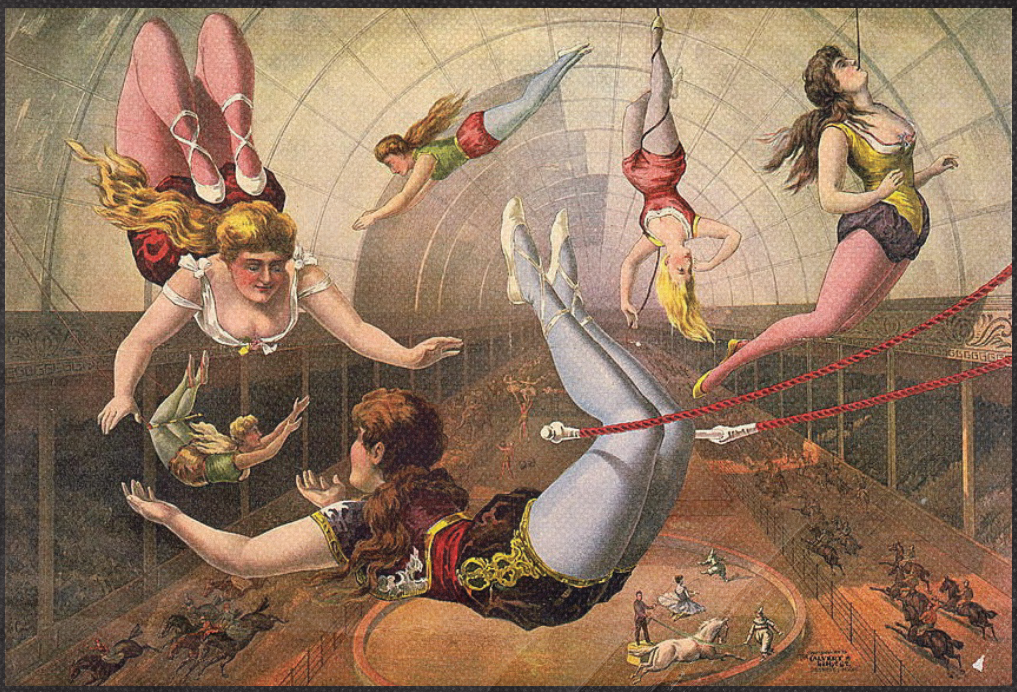


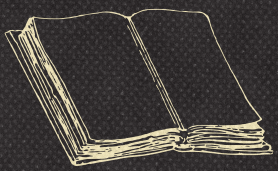
Your Guide to the University of Kentucky's Most Niche Clubs

by Greer Givens



Over these past few months of the fall semester, I have had the privilege of attending three club meetings that I just had to know about. My curiosity arose when I tabled for WRFL at this year's Campus Ruckus. I noticed that the university hosts far more clubs than I ever imagined. As a fourth year undergrad, I had hardly heard of any clubs outside of Greek Life and intramural sports- which struck me as a bit depressing. Maybe that's my own fault for not spreading my wings, but we're getting off track! I still wondered…where had these lesser-known clubs been all my life? I decided to write this handy dandy guide for other lost souls who are waiting for their perfect group to appear to them out of the blue. If you're looking for a sign, THIS IS IT!!! So, I visited and spoke with three clubs and their respective lead organizers to see what I was missing.











Circus Club

I had the pleasure of visiting a Circus Club meeting in early September. Located in one of the large open gymnasiums in Barker Hall, my friend (shoutout to Camille, former WRFL General Manager!) and I were greeted with bustling activity from the very first second we arrived. Members are already twisting in silks, warming up with climbing ropes, and stretching in astoundingly impossible positions to get ready for the meeting. My first assumption was that this was a space for professional aerial artists…but I couldn't have been more wrong, damn it! I spoke with several members and officers of the club, and found that people often come in with a variety of backgrounds. Students who were hardly physically active, to those whose parents were in traveling circuses! This open gym was for students of all levels of expertise, from very beginners to professional aerial arts instructors. If you can't even attempt a pull up, like myself, you are still welcome here.

The club was founded in 2021 by Jess Farace, encouraged by her professor whilst taking a course that involved circus arts and its relation to philosophical studies. Her motivation was to provide an active space for skill sharing, and to have students share their physical techniques with each other. It's a very collaborative space- peers are showing each other how to walk on stilts and juggle for the first time, right in front of me. I was told students are encouraged to attend and slowly acquire the strengths and flexibilities necessary for activities like trapeze, acro-balancing, and even unicycling. People join and can even pioneer a technique for their peers- one member recalled being the only one to attempt the

trapeze when they first joined. “Everyone else was on the silks, lyra, and the acromats, while I was seeing this lone trapeze swinging in this empty space..and I said, I’m gonna be your new buddy.” Besides being totally stunned, impressed, and flabbergasted by the talents of the members, I could tell the environment was incredibly welcoming and collaborative. If you’re looking for an unconventional yet fun physical activity to try out, this one's for you!

You can find Circus Club on Instagram at **@circuscatsuk** and in person every Friday from 3:30 to 5 PM in Barker Hall, room 104.



Squirrel Watching Club

I met the President and the Social Media Director of Squirrel Watching Club (SWC), Haley Phillips and Kaylee Bliss, outside of the Willy T Starbucks on the first mildly chilly afternoon of the fall season. After introducing themselves, Phillips even graciously gifted me a SWC pin off of her own backpack, complete with a teeny photo of a squirrel. She tells me her major in Forestry and

interest in wildlife helped spark the motivation to found the club. Bliss says she first heard about the club on her campus tour before she became a student at UK. “Somehow I ended up in the GroupMe…I had a lot of fun and it was very relaxed.” And relaxed it was! They were so welcoming, we chatted for nearly an hour whilst watching squirrels humorously fight, nibble on walnuts, and scitter through the trees (surprisingly very entertaining!).



I’m told the best spots for squirrel watching are outside White Hall, Gatton College of Business and Economics, and especially the front lawn of Maxwell Place- Dean Capilouto’s own domicile. We hung out here for the duration of the meeting, and with the expansive lawn full of tall trees and even a koi pond, there was plenty of wildlife to see. The club’s organizers say the squirrels have personalities, and after an hour with them, I genuinely believe it. They run and move so erratically, yet their interactions with each other feel like watching cartoon squirrels in a Don Bluth movie (*nasally millennial voice*- look it up, kids!) Rebekah, our Music Director at WRFL, even noticed some bunnies hopping through the bushes before getting chased back into their home under

ground by a hawk. With this type of natural beauty, who needs a dying caged tiger in the middle of campus! But seriously, it's quite fun to slow down and take in the natural world around you that you may brush off as you walk to class. The club's officers as well as its members clearly have an appreciation for our fluffy little campus friends that we could all benefit from learning about. Go squirrels!

You can find Squirrel Watching Club on Instagram at **@uk_swc** and in person every Friday. Check out the GroupMe link in their bio for meeting times and locations.

Zine Club

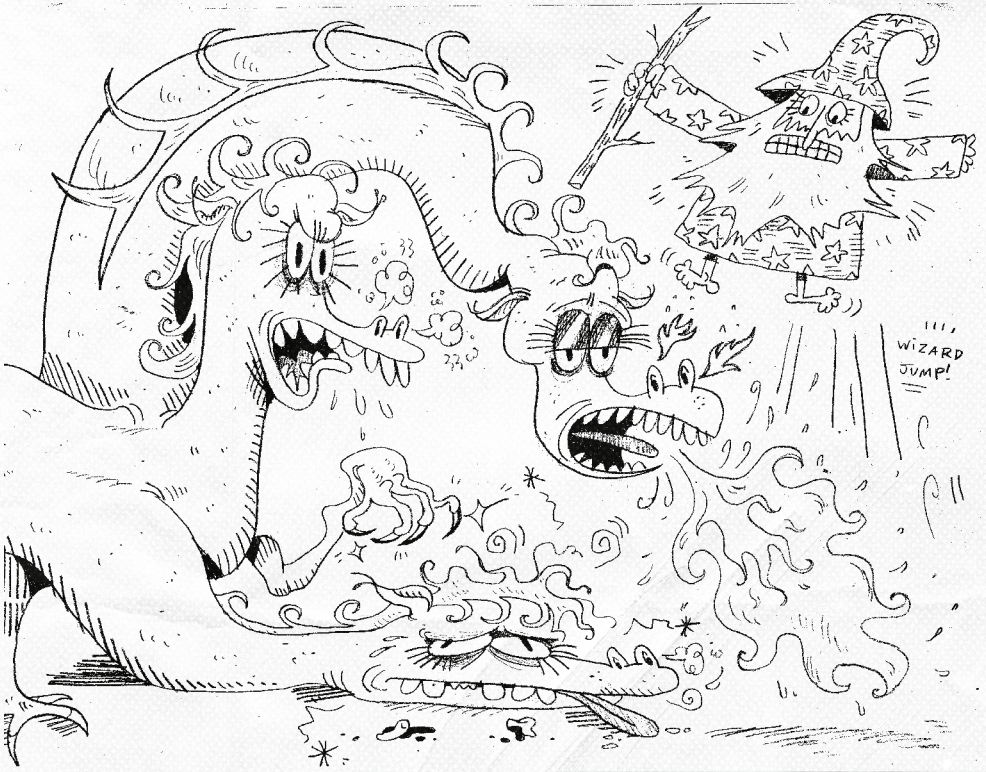
I've saved Zine Club for last because I would say I'm a regular at the place. My dear friend Robby Varillas has been the club's President since Spring of 2022, taking over the club founder Lexi O'Donnell's position (who created the club a semester prior). The staff of Zine Club- Varillas, his brother Ayo Varillas, Claire Thompson, and Henry Arnold are overseen by advisor and printmaking extraordinaire David Wischer. Every few weeks, students of all artistic talents shuffle into the print lab at the School of Visual Arts and Studies (SAVS) for another Zine Club meeting. You don't have to be a student at SAVS, and you don't need any technical skill to participate in zine-making. Varillas says "I wanted to form a club that fostered creativity and community while keeping the stakes low. Sometimes you need a place to just make something for fun with friends—no pressure, grades or critique. "Some of you may be wondering, what is a zine? Well, for one, you're reading one

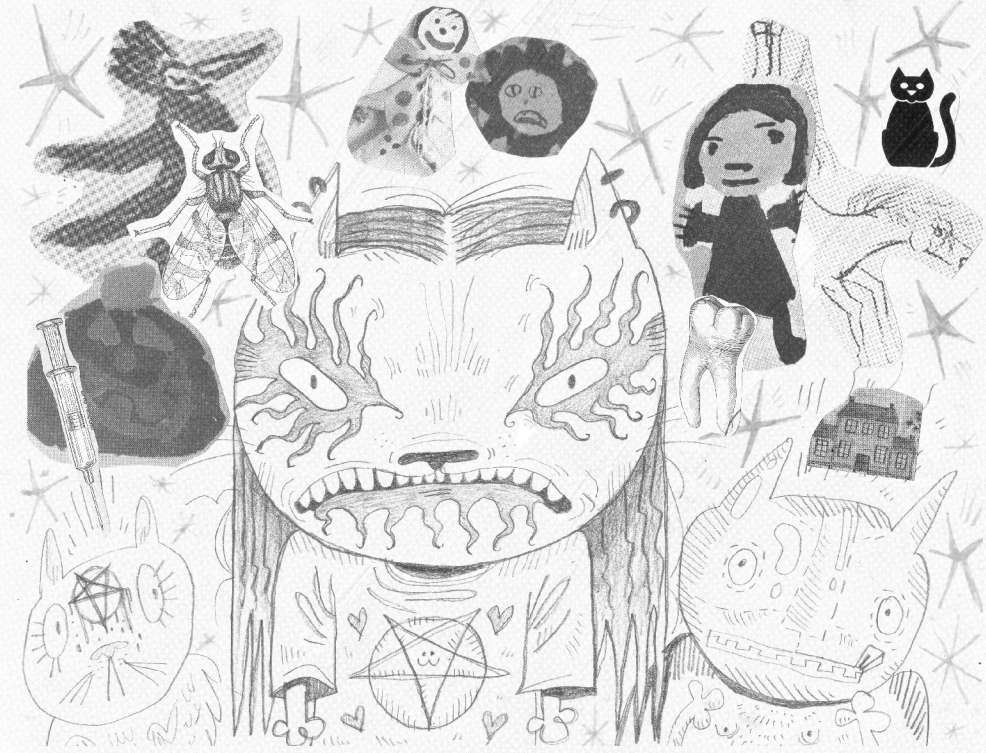
right now. But, it can be loosely defined as printed self-published works of original or appropriated text and images. Every meeting, members have a few hours to collage, draw, glue, and cut their own masterpiece that pertains to the theme introduced at the beginning of the meeting. It almost resembles a relaxed craft room social hour, where creatively-minded people can get to know each other and let loose on their own creation. Take my experience- I used to go to meetings and barely knew a soul. Now, I can name almost every person in the room and it's an environment full of laughter and fun. I asked Varillas if he has any plans for the future of Zine Club:

“The only thing I haven’t done is start my own arts and culture zine through the club. Though, there are already a ton here in town (like the one you are currently reading and the RIVAL.) Honestly though, I have thought a lot about the future of Zine Club as I stare down the barrel of graduating. I don’t know what’s going to happen to the club once I’m gone. Will it continue the way it is, fizzle out, or turn into something totally different?”

I have a feeling that if the next President has as much passion for the zine medium as Robby, the club will be just fine.

You can find Zine Club on Instagram at **@zineclub** and in person on selected Fridays at the School of Visual Arts and Studies, room 242. Follow for meeting date announcements.
You can also find Robby Varillas and his work on Instagram at **@heavyonyourhead**.





zine club pages by Greer Givens



photograph by
Brian Connors Manke
instagram: @bcmanke


visual
art
submissions

Annie O'Brien



Your Arms Are My Cocoon
@yourarmsaremycocoon
at Legends Bar and Venue





Jaclyn Okorley






WARHAMM
RUE HAUTEFEUILLE



Natalie Haley
instagram: @nataliehaley.design





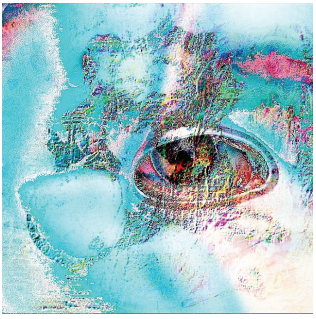




Evie Lunsford
instagram: @evieluv222

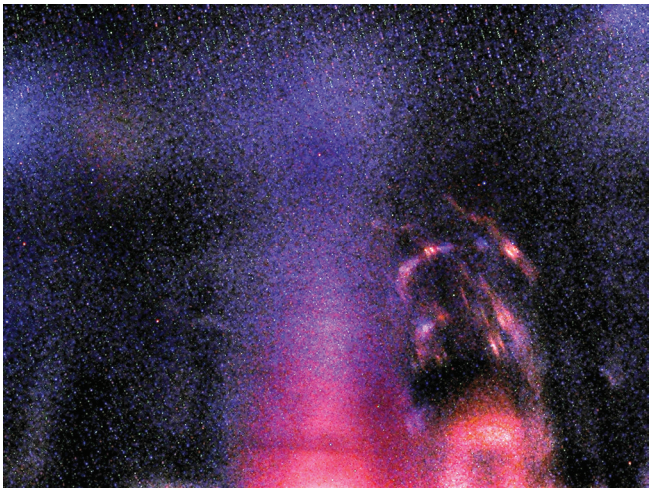


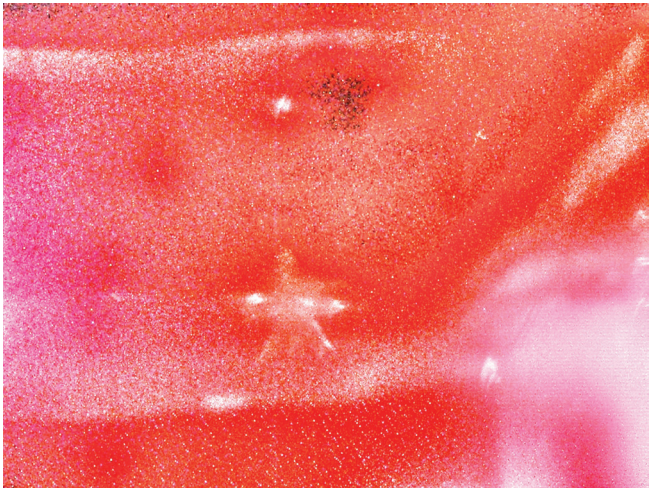




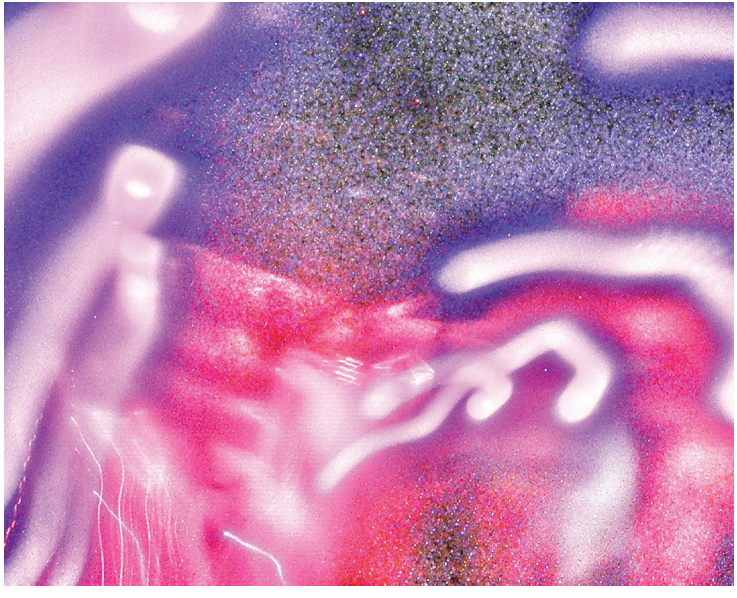


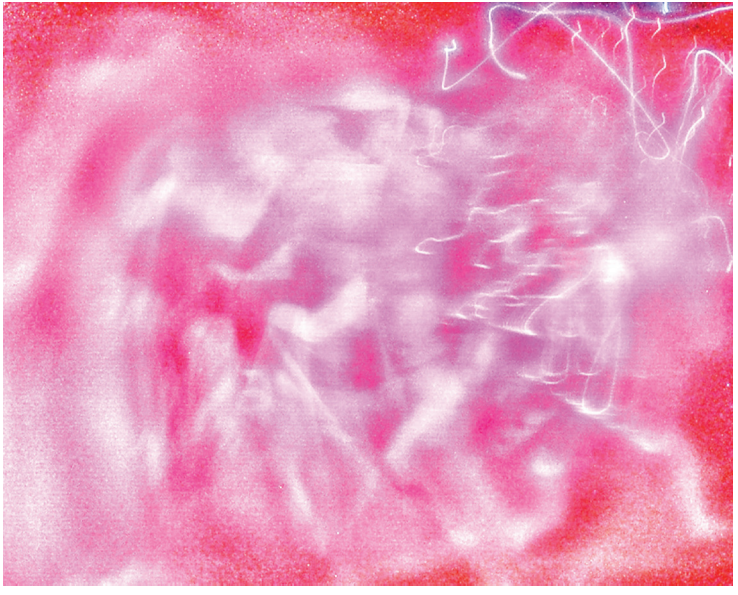






Evie Lunsford
instagram: @evieluv222





Lucas Lima
instagram: @51fortynine







Lucas Lima
instagram: @51fortynine



Karl Thomas
instagram: @bugwtr



(above) Celebrity Crux Collage

(right) The Greatest Mindblower Collage


GREATEST
MINDBLOWER

Brian Connors Manke
instagram: @bcmanke





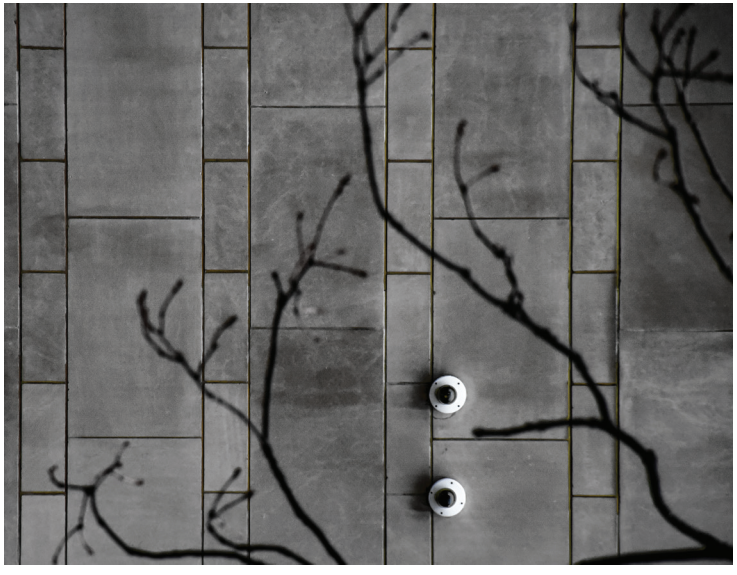
Movie Jail
@moviejail
at Green Lantern



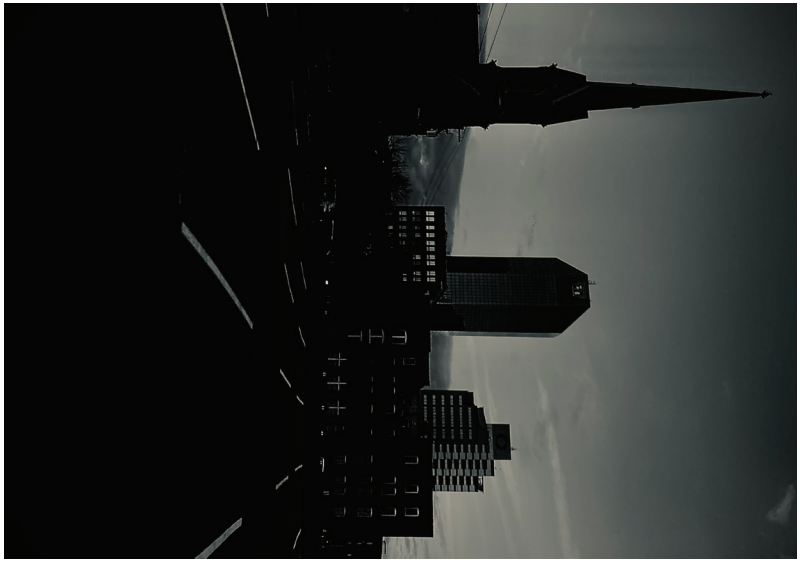
Wednesday
@wednesday_gurl
at The Burl



Parkette Floor
Photo



Campus Friend
Photo

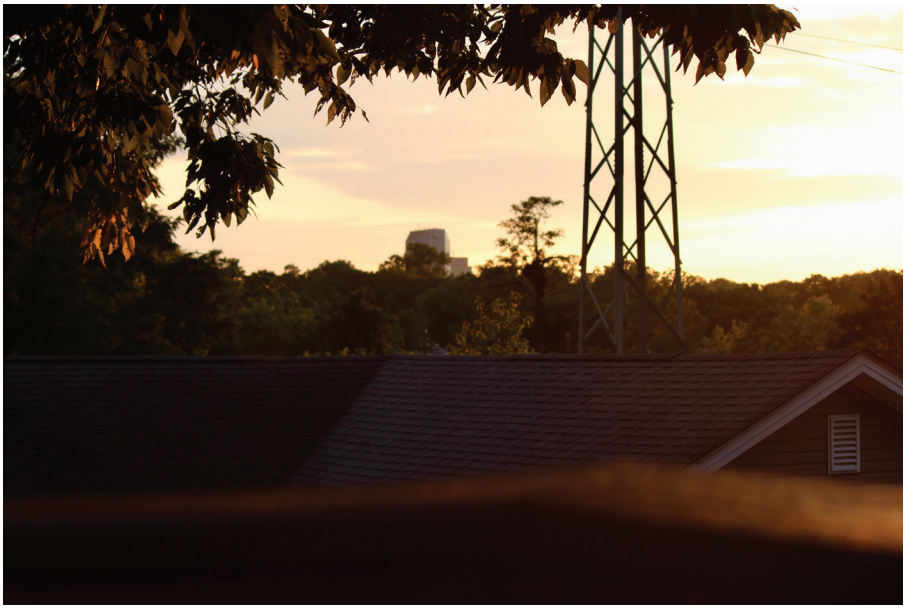


Lexington Crosses
Photo

Brian Connors Manke
instagram: @bcmanke

Ethan Angelos

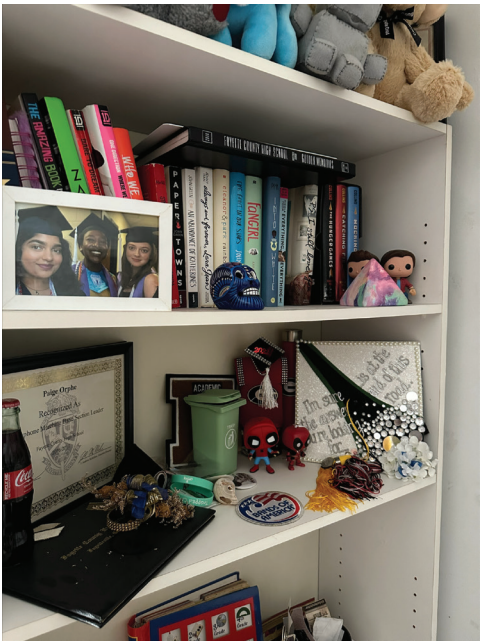






Paige A. Orphe / dj swag hill
things in my childhood room
that just make sense, 2023






I ♡ U


JAMAICA
twenty
live
ICE
WHERE WE ARE TOU


$ $

D.I.Y. Dorito TACOS

HOW TO DO IT:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil.

2. Mold 4-6 foil block molds to hold and shape taco shells. Place foil molds on top of a baking sheet and set aside.

3. Brush hot sauce on corn tortilla. Press crushed chips on top to fully coat the taco shell.

4. Drape prepared shells over foil molds and bake 10 to 15 minutes or until shells are crisp.

5.Cool for 10 minutes before removing shells from foil mold.

6. Fill with favorite taco fillings and serve immediately.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

8 corn tortillas
1/4 cup hot sauce
2 cups nacho flavor Doritos, finely crushed
Aluminum foil



A FAST FOOD STAPLE, RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME

David Crosby
instagram: @worldofcromics

Eric Varillas-Llewellyn
instagram: @paintbrah




RIFLE

WRITING SUBMISSIONS



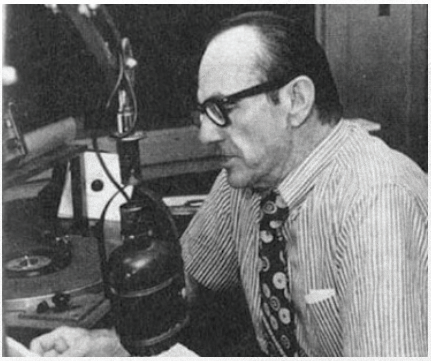
GIMME MY RADIO



a reminisce

by bill cheves

Radio for me has not only been entertainment but an avenue of exploration and discovery. I have been around for a while. I was five years old when Eisenhower was first elected in 1953 and twelve when Kennedy took office. For a time, we did not have a television and obviously there was no internet but we did have radio. There were two stations in our town, one with more 'grown-up' content and one that played rock and roll. The 'adult' station broadcast until midnight but if you tuned in the rock and roll station after dark you would hear this - SILENCE! In those days you had daytime stations that could only broadcast until sunset so if you wanted to hear rock and roll after the sun went down in my town, you had to whip out your transistor radio and go hunting. So, at night lying in bed, I tuned in to some of the legendary disc jockeys and stations like Cousin Brucie on WABC in New York and Dick Biondi on WLS in Chicago. Here I could hear all the same rock and roll music being played on my hometown station. My musical horizons were expanded one night when I tuned in WLAC 1510 in Nashville and heard 'Hey John R, what you gonna do, hey John R play me some rhythm and blues'. WLAC was what was known as a clear channel station, their frequency being granted at night time exclusively to between one to three AM stations. Broadcasting at 50,000 watts, WLAC could be heard all over the south and often as far away as the northeast and Canada. WLAC's night time DJ's John Richbourg (John R), Gene Nobles and Hoss Allen had begun to play blues and r&b artists like James Brown, Muddy Waters, Etta James, and others who were little known outside of specialty jukeboxes and in smaller Southern markets. WLAC introduced me to blues and r&b and I have never stopped listening to it.



In the late 60s I started college in South Carolina but transferred to a small college in E. Tennessee bringing a record collection that was mostly Motown and Stax artists.

One day in my dorm I heard an amazing song coming through the wall. I banged on the door of the next room and asked very animatedly (as in 'what the hell is that!') who that was and found it was the Jimi Hendrix Experience. This was a brand-new sound for me and I wondered where I might hear more and found it on newly expanding FM. Tom Donahue, a San Francisco DJ, who had written a 1967 Rolling Stone article "AM Radio Is Dead and Its Rotting Corpse Is Stinking Up the Airwaves" had taken over programming on a San Francisco FM station. Under Donahue, KSAN became an alternative "free-form" radio station playing the new album tracks chosen by the DJs. It became known as underground radio and soon spread to other cities, so to hear some of the new albums and artists who were beginning to record you would search the FM dial for your closest alternative radio station.



No matter where I happened to be I would always spend some time running up and down the dials to find what was new and different. In the early 70s, I lived in Germany and discovered Radio Luxembourg and UK pirate stations like Radio Caroline or Radio North Sea International. For the more underground/alternative sound, there was 'Super Clean Dream Machine' , a weekly program on Radio Hilversum in the Netherlands that played artists like Hendrix, Pink Floyd, or Jethro Tull.



Back in the states, still pre-internet, I listened to shortwave radio finding new opportunities for discovery, whether hearing a state-run station from behind the Iron Curtain or a new style of music from somewhere around the world. Stations would broadcast for short periods of time on certain frequencies at certain times of day. I remember waking up in the very early morning, turning on my shortwave radio to my

chosen frequency and hearing nothing but background static. Then all the static would disappear and there would be total silence until the announcement that Africa 1 was signing on. Africa 1 was a station out of Gabon, Africa and when I had it tuned-in I knew I would hear some amazing soukous music, exotic to me but everyday music to the listeners in Gabon and Africa. My interest in world music grew when we traveled to various islands in the Caribbean and tuning in stations like VON radio, the voice of St. Kitts and Nevis turned me on to music like calypso, soca and zouk.



In these days of streaming, internet, and formulaic FM, you can still use your radio to discover something new and interesting. When I am in a new city or location, I head to the left and start at 88.1 and move up the dial. This is where you can find many of the college, independent and community stations open to new music that you may have never heard but find out that you like and want to hear more of. WRFL is one of the best of these stations, allowing DJ's freedom to play what they want no matter how obscure and esoteric it might be. It is the place that showcases the new and different and gives me a chance to contribute and maybe play a song that will make someone want to tune in their own radio and go exploring.



A retrospective review of Future's DS2

by Stephen Hicks

I want to talk about 2015:

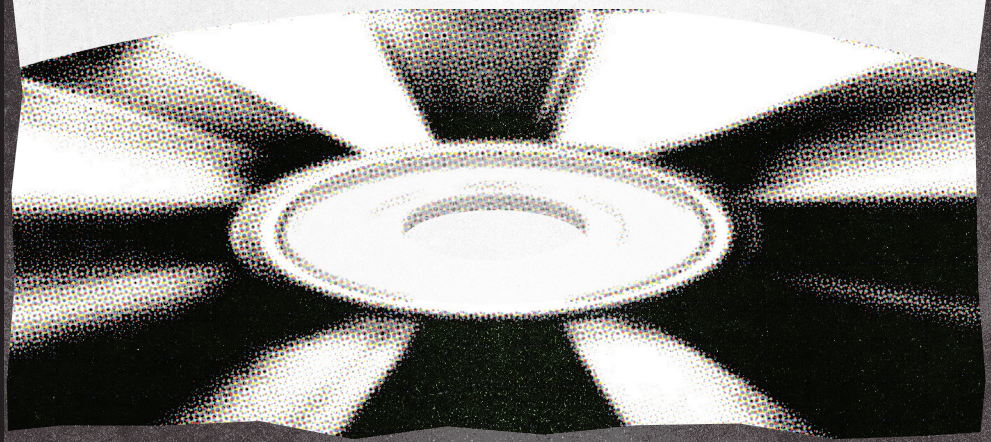
the last year fun music was really popular. With everybody coasting on second-term Obama vibes, it felt like an endless party of electronic dance riffs. Tame Impala, Grimes and Chvrches were all in heavy rotation on WRFL. Hip-hop and R&B were no different: Beats Pill speaker ads were disguised as music videos for whatever synthy pop-rap Mike Will Made-it produced and DJ Mustard insisted on adding a "hey!" chant on *every* second and fourth beat. Even dicey lyrics about snorting cocaine and cooking crack cocaines were happy summertime hits by The Weeknd and Fetty Wap (remember him?!) Those were fun times, when did it all change? Then last week, I found a copy of Future's "DS2 (Dirty Sprite 2)" at CD Censhh and might have found my answer.

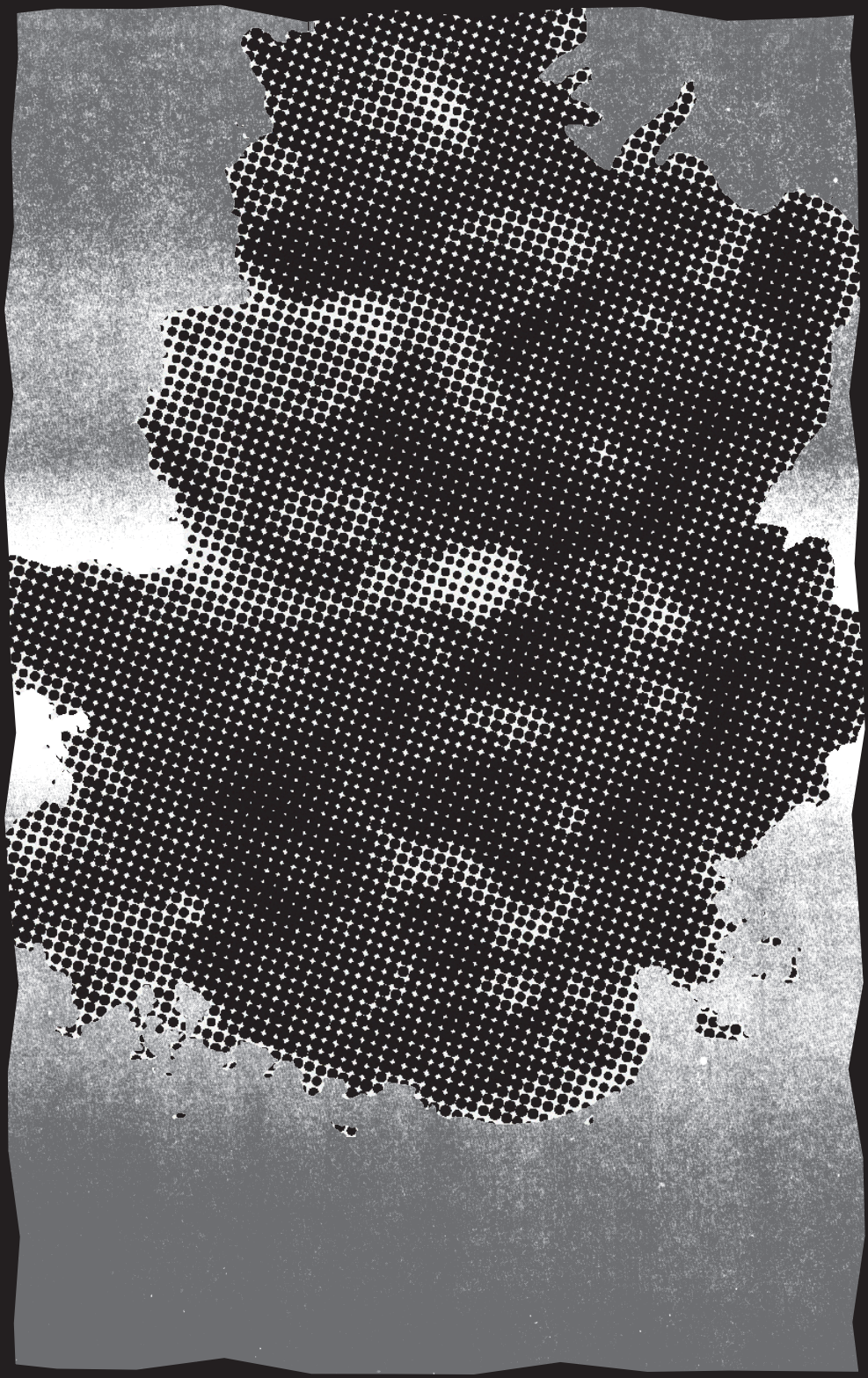
Future was not yet a household name in the beginning of 2015. Besides a few minor hits, I really only knew the permastoned Atlanta rapper from the memes of him describing cheesecake to Nardwuar as “sensational” and his lyric about taking 56 Xanax bars in a month. Then Drake took a break from having a crush on Coach Cal and gave his co-sign by featuring on “Where Ya At,” which debuted July 17, 2015, the same day as the rest of “DS2” was released. It became his most successful single yet and the album received the once-meaningful Best New Music from Pitchfork. Next thing I know, this diamond in the rough bacame the blueprint for what would become the default sound for modern rap.

Future sounds like Satan himself hypnotizing you with a pocket watch on this record. The repetition of his lyrics breathes horror through his vocal fry delivery, with lines like “Put the heroin in the bricks” and “They got blood on the money and I still count it.” His storytelling fleshes out a man too far gone in the gutter to ever be redeemed, or as he says on “I Serve the Base,” “I gave up on my conscience, gotta live with it.” There is an underlying bitterness to his monster heel persona that adds an almost sympathetic depth to his braggadocio.

The secret sauce that makes “DS2” so sweet is its syrupy atmosphere provided by Metro Boomin and Southside who produced 12 of the 13 tracks. The crisp slow-burn of every keyboard instrumental matches the guttural heaviness of Future’s toxicity. So much classical music influence too: the plucking strings on “Lil One,” the lone violin on “Groupies,” and collaborator Zaytoven’s flute closing the album on “Blood on the Money.” I am mainly writing this because of how much I enjoy those beats.

By 2016, that new, dark Atlanta sound had all but replaced the carefree dance party. It better reflected the shitshow that was happening around us, unfortunately. The rising tide did lift up other rappers in that scene like Migos, Gunna and 21 Savage. Donald Glover created a hit series literally named after the city, that is how much “DS2” shifted pop culture. I guess you could say Future predicted the future.





The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom

Review by Austin Taylor

Be Careful What You Wish For
Mr. White: “I will! (Holds up the paw, as if half ashamed.) I wish for more Breath of the Wild.”
(Crash on the piano. At the same instant Mr. White utters a cry and lets the paw drop.)
Mrs. White and Herbert: “What’s the matter?”
Mr. White: (gazing with horror at the paw). “It moved! As I wished, it twisted in my hand like a snake.”

-*The Monkey’s Paw*, W.W. Jacobs, adapted for 2023.

Popular YouTube channel RedLetterMedia runs a series called ‘re:View’ in which the channel’s hosts analyze film and television. Two of the hosts most dedicated *Star Trek* fans, Rich and Mike, are tasked with most of the videos relating to that franchise. So when Paramount Plus launches each new season of Picard, treating *The Next Generation* to a sequel, RLM fans impatiently salivate waiting to watch these hosts react to the apparently large departure of the original show. In real-time, two dedicated enjoyers of the source material actively explore how the new material makes them enjoy *The Next Generation* less. In a similar way, some *Game of Thrones fans* discuss online their inability to watch the completed television series, even its critically acclaimed first 4 seasons, because of the panned ending.

Tears of the Kingdom made me enjoy *Breath of the Wild* less: not a whole lot less; not to the point where I dislike *Breath of the Wild*; but less.

Your Game Immersion Broke!

I really think this sequel let me peer behind the curtain too much. To rip away nearly all the progress the player made in *Breath of the Wild*, save for registered horses (lol), is to spend many moments remapping the game literally and figuratively. As I glided from one cartographer tower to the next, I had time to think. I thought if every NPC immediately recognizes me as this established helper and swordsman, why doesn't the game itself treat me with that same familiarity? That is, why behave like I don't know what the Great Plateau looks like when that's where my journey began in 2017? And this time, rehashing identical plot points and a tutorial did not establish my first 5 hours with enough motivation to get after identifying similar territory. While the game's central attempt to make up for these similarities is the addition of two new large zones, they are hardly ever as magnetic as the ground floor of Hyrule that I found myself spending tens of hours without touching either of the new areas. I'm arguing that it's the game's fault, here. To showcase how many things they added on to *Breath of the Wild,* while retreading the beats from that game, simply made me feel like there was not a consensus from the developers on what I should be doing at any point.

"Play the exact same song!"
"Ok!"

My favorite memories from *Breath of the Wild* revolved around thinking I was tricking the game into doing something my way, when in reality that game's structure gave freedom in each puzzle to allow that illusion. It felt like a game finally understood how to be a big brother to me: get me close to a flow state with the most basic rules of an experience, then push me to do something out of that comfort zone while curating a half dozen ways to get past it. Higher and higher the stakes became in that game and still I felt like I was just cunningly skating by whenever I had to learn something new. A slacker's favorite game, maybe. And with that illusion, what I think was a perfect indifference to what I did, came a feeling of respect and possibly admiration from the game's developers. That's why it hurts to see its sequel symbolize a plate too full to truly enjoy.

I did enjoy a lot of my time with *Tears of the Kingdom*, in the same way most people did. "Glorified Shop Class" has been

rolling around since the game was released. Indeed every time the game asked me to stitch together a Frankenstein's Monster of fans, batteries, control sticks, and actual rockets just to transport my character one football field away was genuinely fun.

My issues came from the story beats being so familiar. And this is different from the normal echoes in the Zelda series. I don't mind our tentpole character names appearing generation after generation. It's always endearing to ponder what new batch of iterations Zelda, Link, Impa, But a retelling of the conflict from *Breath of the Wild* is a step to far: you are awakened to find that you're the only hero capable of collecting the power of four great teammates to defeat Ganon so you engage with their spirits and they help you defeat the final boss VS. you are stripped of your powers and are the most capable person to gather the descendants of four great warriors to defeat Ganondorf, so you do. On top of this, the conflict in *Tears of the Kingdom* necessarily involves you hearing about how the last band of warriors at the dawn of the kingdom lost—the exact same backstory as *Breath of the Wild*.

Nothing that an NPC or a cutscene describes as hopeless or dangerous ever seems that impossible because I've already done it.

Elden Ring

Is it just a symptom of having played *Elden Ring* (2022) that I felt the desire to overanalyze this game for teenagers? That game is all about steering towards anything that looks just capable enough for you to handle. The Tarnished's first glance at its open world includes seeing a golden knight that most players will not get one hit on until they've spent a dozen hours in the game. Once I defeated my first Guardian in *Breath of the Wild* and realized their robotic legs were as durable as printing paper, I hardly ever missed a chance to fight them. *Tears of the Kingdom* doesn't noticeably iterate on the simplistic combat system from its predecessor; I never felt the need to get strong enough to fight its newer Hydras scattered around the map.

Durability- Meet Zonai Devices

Why? Why do Zonai devices expire after a length of time? Why can't I charge these over and over again? If my flyer is souped up with enough fans to carry a blimp, enough batteries

to make the Energizer Bunny screech, and enough rockets for NASA to file a missing property report, then why is that eagle shaped masterpiece blinking out of existence before I can take a selfie with ach of the game's patrolling dragons? Let me charge that sucker until Hyrule's various watch towers each report UFO sightings. Otherwise? This game should just have a paraglider. But did they get Overwatch 2-itis? "if we want to justify a sequel we can't simply give them the paraglider again!" No they didn't. I'm just a little bitter about those devices poofing away when I'm having fun. What I'm saying is I want a DLC that is just 100 various GTA V style custom maps where I'm using the flyers to do cool tricks. Let's get that going.

The Blonde Dragon in the Room

Another AAA big budget, all-eyes-on-us moment for Nintendo. Another failed opportunity to make its titular character playable in any capacity. I don't know why I'm so surprised they won't let us play as Zelda. But I think I was at least hoping we wouldn't receive 'damsel in distress' as a trope for our character's motivation—again. It really doesn't make sense even in the context of this story: Zelda begins the game with Link adventuring, Uncharted couple style. So maybe this round was the final chance for me to remove any lingering naivete: these developers are not interested in letting you play as Zelda, and they're frightened we won't play at all if she's not in peril. I've always thought Link's motivation is to save Hyrule: that place he lives in. Saving Zelda specifically should be an afterthought, just like any random shopkeeper or jerk knight. Whatever they decide to do next, it's probably not what I envision. And that's ok.

Finish Review.... COMPLETE

In a calendar year with so many breakout hits already released (*Hi Fi Rush, Diablo 4, Final Fantasy 16*), I was most excited for *Tears of the Kingdom*. When I began playing, I thought "oh this will be neat, it's a nod to the opening of the last game" but by the time I finished, I routinely thought "was the last game this empty in between hubs, too?" You can't perfectly nail down what this game is. Because the creativity involved with the new mechanics is tremendous work and the fact that the game doesn't crash each time I fuse any two items is a miracle. But I

did come here for the story and combat. And I left happy, but maybe not wowed. And expectations of 'wow' are partially the marketing's responsibility and partly my own. Perhaps the expectation was to 'feel the same feeling I had when I played *Breath of the Wild* for the first time.' But the trick is: you can only do that once. Thanks for reading.



Summary: *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom* cannot decide what it wants you to do. Whereas *Breath of the Wild* was indifferent to the player's path and decision-making, *Tears* is so excited to show and tell its new game mechanics and epic, linear story beats that Link at times becomes a virtual Buridan's Ass: caught in between equally appealing activities with hardly any reason to choose one over the other.

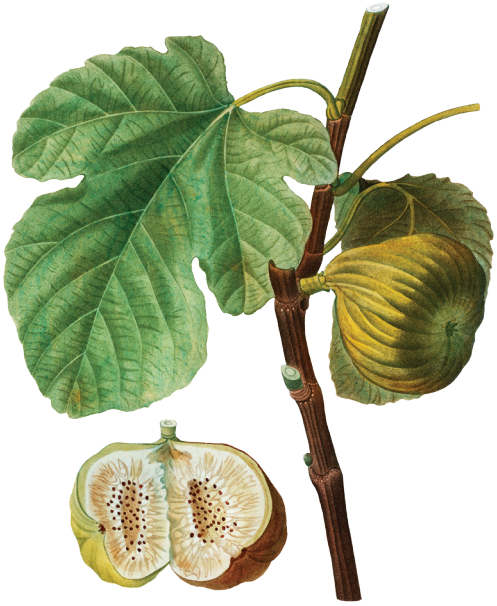
Platform: Nintendo Switch
Completion Time: 45 hours
Difficulty: N/A
Rating: 4/5


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Zelus domus tuæ comę
dit me: et opprobria oppro
bantiū tibi ceciderut superme.
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Ω
ps. 68.

poetry by
Emily Burditt

Fig-treeing

I wish I could say that I want him virtuously,
for reasons other than wanting for want's sake.
But I'm afraid I'm itching to settle
before my options become too tempting
to not have all at once.
I'm stuck from a choice I haven't yet made-
the commitment of it tethers even as freedom suffocates me.
To choose one means letting the rest rot,
but maybe that's just the pessimist in me.
Whatever will be, will be,
and the ones unchosen may ripen in their stead,
while those impatient enough to wait may see themselves out.



anatomy

being “in touch” with you could hardly compare
to the feeling that touch used to bring.
the way it zipped up my insides,
waltzed around my lungs,
spun circles through my stomach,
left me taught, stuttering on unsure footing.
it soaked into me, leaving my outermost edges
dappled in the feeling of you-
my fingertips, my split ends, the bridge of my nose-
bright and warm and giddy.
it sank into my skeleton, made friends with the marrow.
it became as much a part of me as many things do-
so much a part of me, his mistakes were mine.

now all i remember is what my mind begs me to:
vignettes of care and restraint filtered through rose,
coloring memories in shades of you that never existed.
when the skin you used to worship
and the blood that courses through this body
both run red at the thought of you,
i sit in the feeling that it carries with it,
consuming me from all directions.
you always tended to have that effect.
someday you won’t.

It Should Be Permanent
Alaysha Crowe

1. Markers.

2. Blue 60 dollar backpack I bought, high school, senior year, replaced as a Carhartt, freshman in college. I don’t have the cash to spare. I do things anyway; It gets me in trouble. I find I do not care.

3. Insurance covers prescription wire frames. Insurance covered prescription. Insurance covered prescriptions until I turned 19. Insurance no longer covers anything because I no longer have it. I never wear my glasses anyway.

4. Air diffuser in candle banned dorm. I want the world to smell of oranges but the water runs out. I trick my senses daily and do not replace the moisture. I am lazy in protecting my peace.

5. Storage on my Motorola. A month before you ended things, I ran out of space. I tell myself that one more video would suffice. I do not delete the ones I have. I guess that is my way of saying I want our history. What's more, I want to record you still. What’s more, I want to not need memory but past is what I have always been. I learn again and again that it is the only thing that always stays.

6. Lead. I want a pencil. I want one that writes forever. Well, I want a pencil that writes forever without me having to hold it up. Well, a pencil that writes forever without me having to hold it up or contribute ideas. Well, I do want the ideas to be mine. And I want my ideas that are really the pencil’s ideas that are really mine, to be good. I want my ideas to be good. Maybe I want magic more than I want lead. But I’ll settle for motivation instead.



7. Our phone calls, Mama. I miss you like I miss unpolluted starry skies. I remember you when I shouldn't have to. I want it to be easy, to look up and love you. It could be easy, and that is all I have to say about that.

8. Tattoos and youth. I'd suffer through highschool to be again who I wish I always was. Undisturbed by the world's hurt. Pain, my playground, my perfect wonderland of I'm starting to forget. It's drifting with Marlboro wind and sin through callused hands and my weary chin. Which I shake now. Unwilling to admit that I must submit to losing everything I have. Wow. Fickle fumble through growing up.

9. Fuck the mantras on T-shirts about how life is beautiful because we are doomed. Fuck resources. We run out of resources - according to a quick google search - in 2058 anyway, the world's expiration date. I don't know if that's true but fuck that. Fuck facts. Still Life, still Life should be forever. Should be forever and a day because I say it should. Because I am only 19 and I can already see that 1 is not enough. That life is the minutes you waste plus one.

10. Dogs, or at least I wish they lived as long as we did. Innocent. Caught in the crime of Nature's curse.

11. This poem is the only thing that I know for sure would, if given the option, last forever. There are so many things that should be permanent but aren't. I wish I could remember to cherish it all for however long it lasts, but alas, even reminder doesn't last forever. Even gratefulness isn't permanent.



Winter’s Secret Language
photograph by Brian Connors Manke
instagram: @bcmanke

Seasonal Depression
Jacob D. Sizemore

I almost drowned when I was little, and it took little to no energy for me to fall asleep. My mom busted down the door to wake me up. Some days I wish I never woke up. I know the time on earth I've had so far has been free, but to me that could be farther than the truth. Stuck in my head and letting my heart take control some days and in the end, I still end up broke in some way. I know that’s cliché but that is the best way for me to explain. I know I'm depressed when I sit in my room all day, cannot get out of bed, and lay awake thinking of how I almost killed myself in so many ways. Past mistakes I say, but that is just growing character to my own dismay. Being aggressive is not who I am, for when I do get mad, I cry, and I just wish to fly away from the situation. Hitting someone that I love and adding that to the marks on my wrist for later. Looking at myself in the mirror and wishing someone else was there I know I'm not the best, but this is all I got. People are looking at me and I'm thinking the worst thoughts. Hitting the lowest of the lows I thought how much worse it could get. It hit me like a ton of bricks that I have been conflicting with everyone's life choices. Every person I have put down or lied to makes me think maybe I deserve to be at the bottom of the barrel. Last to be chosen for sports or even looked at with disgust, because I am ugly in some sort. I want to stand up for what I believe in, but I know other people have better tendencies than me. They think more freely than me. People are better than me. People have it worse than me, and I can see that clearly. Some days I just want to feel happy. Not a guy who lies or cheats his way through life just to get a sense of what it is like to be one of the guys on a day off. Even a 9 to 5 that he will hate every day. What am I supposed to say to not disappoint the loved ones that I see every other weekend? I am all foggy in the head by the end.

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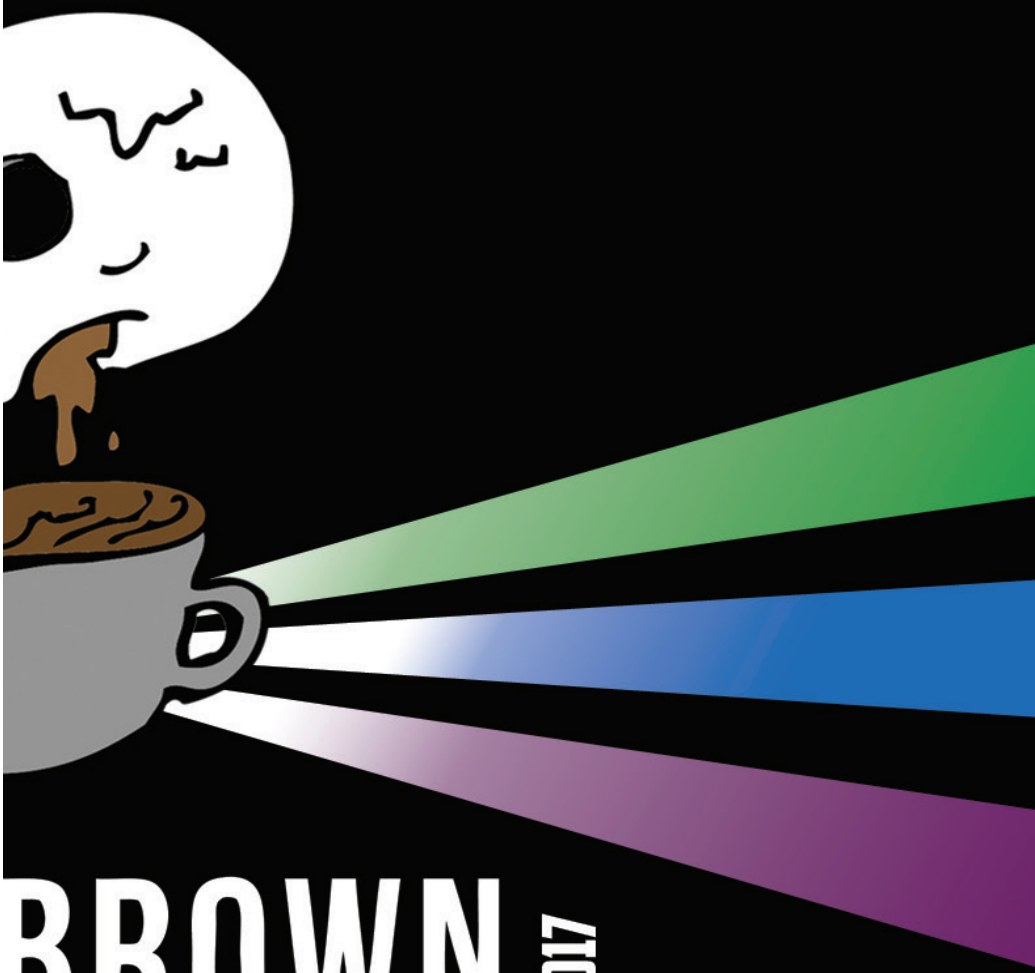


09/30/23

feat: maggie², mammoth cave ii, the velvet rage, nortutha, fleece, stumpy, +more

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Q: What is a non-horror film that scares you?



Mary Clark

The NeverEnding Story (1984)

dir. Wolfgang Petersen



The idea of The Nothing has forever messed with my head. Also the Swamps of Sadness scene was (and is) absolutely heart-wrenching.



Valerie Wright

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005)

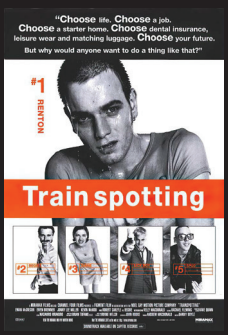
dir. Tim Burton

Every year at school when I was a kid we would watch that and I was absolutely terrified that I was going to eat a blueberry and blow up. I also found Johnny Depp's version of Willy Wonka just unsettling as a kid.

Greer Givens

Trainspotting (1996)

dir. Danny Boyle



It really doesn't get scarier than the scenes involving the baby. The best D.A.R.E. campaign of all time.



Kati Hall

The Jimmy Timmy Power Hour (2004)

dir. Butch Hartman

The Fairly Odd Parents cast should have stayed 2D.

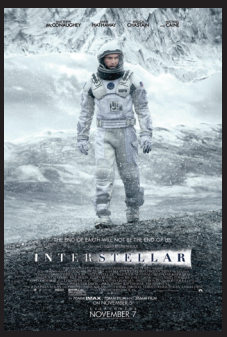
Lucas Lima
Happy Feet (2006)
dir. George Miller





Ethan Angelos
Under the Silver Lake (2018)
dir. David Robert Mitchell

Annie O'Brien
Interstellar (2014)
dir. Christopher Nolan





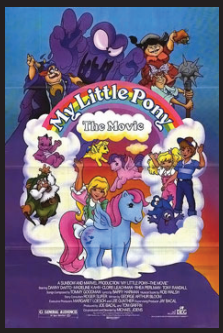
Jaclyn Okorley
Bratz Kidz Sleepover Adventure (2007)
dir. Sean McNamara

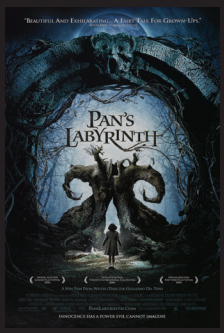
The girls tell spooky stories and one of the stories is a lot like the movie US it scared me so bad.

Abigail Brannon

My Little Pony: The Movie (1986)

dir. Michael Joens





Rebekah New

Pan's Labyrinth (2006)

dir. Guillermo del Toro

(Though I love it very much.)

Brandon Bost

The Wizard of Oz (1939)

dir. Victor Fleming

The flying monkeys!





Sam Wallace-Smith

The Polar Express (2004)

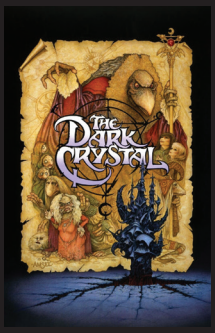
dir. Robert Zemeckis

Aidan Greenwell

The Dark Crystal (1982)

dir. Jim Henson, Frank Oz

Anything with muppets outside of The Muppets is uncanny...not a huge fan ngl.





Luke Stone

Fantastic Planet (1973)

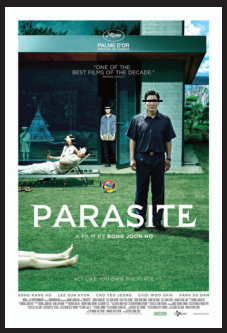
dir. René Laloux

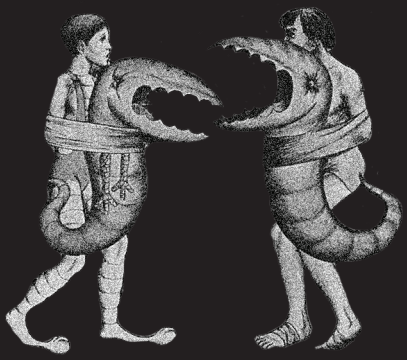
What if were real...

Andrew Mortimer

Parasite (2019)

dir. Bong Joon Ho





Look out for

WRFL FILM CLUB

this Spring!

Jaclyn's Jawesome Jpuzzles



URL Halloween Word Search



H P N R N J N Q U L H Y J B A N S H E E E O Q
L F O E E N U T R O F A X C I G A M R N E R E
E W S P D Q Q N O E G N U D A L U C A R D I E
G A F H C A U L D R O N Y N B E M B E H D S R
E S E A V E G R E M L I N U T R A N U L E X I
N G R N D I S G U I S E D H M I A M F J H T E
D I A T E G T E L B O G F S Y Z N Q S C C E G
A J T O H G C O V E N G L I S M P G C Y T L N
K L U M E R N N E R I S O L T Z O A R C I Y I
H F E U Q S E T O R G Y W O I L T S E L W O L
O P U M P K I N C U R S E O C U I U A O E G L
R N J J H N I L B O G K R F A O O D M P B R I
R E E N C H A N T I N G E A L H N E M S N A H
O X R E L L I R H T B F W N N G R M Z X G G C
R P T P B A M U L E T G A P P A R I T I O N I
J C P G W C R Y P T I D E K O O P S V G N B Z

AMULET
APPARITION
BANSHEE
BEWITCHED
CAULDRON
CHILLING
COVEN
CRYPTID
CURSE
CYCLOPS
DRACULA
DUNGEON
EERIE
ENCHANTING
FOOLISH
FORTUNE
GARGOYLE
GHOUL
GOBLET
GOBLIN
GREMLIN
GROTESQUE
HAUNTING
HORROR
JIGSAW
LEGEND
LUNAR
MAGIC
MEDUSA
MYSTICAL
NOSFERATU
PHANTOM
POTION
PUMPKIN
SCREAM
SIREN
SPOOKED
THRILLER
WEREWOLF

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